

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A fraction comprising essentially purified guinea pig immunoglobulin E having a purity sufficient to obtain a single major band of immunoglobulin E by SDS-PAGE, which is separated from the blood of an allergen-sensitized guinea pig, and having the following properties;
 - (1) having a molecular weight of said major band of about 200 kDa,
 - (2) being usable as an antigen for producing an antibody capable of specifically recognizing guinea pig immunoglobulin E,
 - (3) being positive in a passive cutaneous anaphylaxis reaction in guinea pig,
 - (4) being substantially free of guinea pig immunoglobulin G.
2. (Original) The fraction of claim 1, wherein the guinea pig immunoglobulin E has a molecular weight of the major band of 187 to 195 kDa.
3. (Currently Amended) The fraction of claim ~~1 or 2~~, wherein the guinea pig immunoglobulin E has a molecular weight of about 186 kDa as determined by mass spectrometry.
4. (Currently Amended) The fraction of ~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein said major band is separated into two bands by reducing SDS-PAGE, and the molecular weights of the individual bands after the separation are about 70 kDa and about 30 kDa.
5. (Currently Amended) The fraction of ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the allergen is ovalbumin.
6. (Currently Amended) An antibody capable of specifically recognizing guinea pig immunoglobulin E, produced by immunizing a non-human animal with the

fraction comprising immunoglobulin E of ~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1.

7. (Original) The antibody of claim 6, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

8. (Currently Amended) The antibody of claim ~~6 or 7~~, wherein the antibody exhibits substantially no cross-reaction with guinea pig immunoglobulin G or immunoglobulin M.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A reagent for immunoassaying guinea pig immunoglobulin E comprising the antibody of ~~claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6.

11. (Currently Amended) A reagent for immunoassaying guinea pig immunoglobulin E comprising the antibody of ~~claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6 and an enzyme-labeled antibody thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The reagent of claim ~~10 or 11~~, wherein the reagent for immunoassay is a reagent for performing sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

13. (Currently Amended) A reagent for immunoassaying guinea pig immunoglobulin E comprising the immobilized antibody of ~~claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6 and ovalbumin labeled with a labeling substance.

14. (Currently Amended) A reagent for immunoassaying guinea pig immunoglobulin E comprising immobilized ovalbumin and the antibody of ~~claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6 as labeled with a labeling substance.

15. (Currently Amended) The reagent of claim 13 ~~or 14~~, wherein the labeling substance is an enzyme.

16. (Currently Amended) The reagent of ~~any of claims 13 to 15~~ claim 13, wherein the guinea pig immunoglobulin E is ovalbumin-recognizing immunoglobulin E.

17. (Currently Amended) The antibody of ~~claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6, which is immobilized on a solid phase.

18. (Original) The antibody of claim 17, which is used for producing or purifying guinea pig immunoglobulin E.

19. (New) The reagent of claim 11, wherein the reagent for immunoassay is a reagent for performing sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

20. (New) The reagent of claim 14, wherein the labeling substance is an enzyme.

21. (New) The reagent of claim 14, wherein the guinea pig immunoglobulin E is ovalbumin-recognizing immunoglobulin E.

22. (New) A reagent for immunoassaying guinea pig immunoglobulin E comprising an antibody capable of specifically recognizing guinea pig immunoglobulin E, which reagent exhibits substantially no cross-reaction with guinea pig immunoglobulin G and immunoglobulin M.

23. (New) The reagent of claim 22, which shows a rate of cross-reaction with guinea pig immunoglobulin G or immunoglobulin M of less than 0.0001%.

24. (New) The reagent of claim 23, which is used for a sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.